

REMARKS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action and is amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In this amendment, applicant has amended claim 1, canceled claim 5, and amended the specification. The specification is amended in light of the Office action asserting that one of the paragraphs was awkwardly worded. Numeral 15 referring to a shaft is correct still as numeral 15 refers to a shaft that also has a portion with structure similar to a gear. The heading of a "Brief Description of the Drawings" was also added to the specification.

It is respectfully requested that the rejection of the claims in view of Keller (U.S. Patent No. 5,718,050) under 35 U.S.C. §102 be withdrawn. Regarding this rejection, it is appreciated that with the amended claim language, the claim is now more clearly defined. The amended claim 1 recites that "the vibration damper (23) is arranged between the gear (16) and the sprocket wheel (20) on an inner side of the sprocket wheel (20)." As seen in FIG. 3, the hub part (22) is adjacent to the bearing (19) and the damper (23) is on the exterior sides of the hub part (22). Thus, when viewing the Figure from the top to the bottom, the damper (23) is still between the gear (16) and the sprocket wheel (20), as the sprocket wheel is mounted below the damper (23). The amended language of an "inner side of the sprocket wheel" recites the position of the damper more clearly in relation to the position of the sprocket wheel.

Keller does not have such structure. Also, amended claim 1 recites that "the output shaft (18) is supported by a bearing (19) and the sprocket wheel (20) is provided with a hub part (22) surrounding the bearing (19)." Page 5 of the Office action states that this limitation is not found in the Keller reference. Furthermore, the Keller reference does not describe or show the amended limitation of the "mass body vibration damper (23) is secured to the hub part (22) and the vibration damper (23) is arranged between the gear (16) and the sprocket wheel (20) on an inner side of the sprocket wheel; and the vibration damper (23) is configured to rotate with the sprocket wheel and provide additional weight for the saw head (12)." It is unclear how the "inner race 92" and the

"outer race 93" of the Keller reference can be an equivalent to the vibration damper (23). The Keller reference states that "the cutter arbor shaft bearing 57 includes an inner race 92 and an outer race 93 mounting the cutter arbor shaft" and that "[t]he inner race 92 of the bearing 57 is clamped between the gear 61 and the driver or sprocket 84" where a "nut 102 is mounted to the cutter arbor shaft 52 to operatively clamp the sprocket 84 axially against the inner race 92 of the cutter arbor bearing 57 to the gear 61 on the arbor shaft 52." Col. 6, lines 15-52. Thus, these components do not rotate with the sprocket wheel and the vibration damper (23) cannot be equivalent to this bearing from the Keller reference. Moreover, the Keller reference does not describe or show that "an input shaft (15) of a gear (16) arranged in the chain saw head (12) the gear being provided with an output shaft (18)." The Office action on page 3 asserts that the cutter bar (18) of the Keller reference is equivalent to the output shaft (18) but the Figures of the Keller reference do not support this assertion, as the cutter bar 18 is "mounted to the gear head 12 using known bar and chain mounts 20 (FIG. 20) on a cutter carrier plate 22 (FIG. 5) that in turn is secured to the gear head 12." Col. 3, lines 35-37. Therefore, for at least the aforementioned reasons, the applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of the claims be withdrawn.

Turning to the rejection of the claims under the asserted combination of the Keller reference and the Southwick reference (U.S. Patent No. 2,703,928), it is requested that the rejection in view of such an asserted combination also be withdrawn. First, references cannot be combined where the references teach away from the resultant combination. Here, it is respectfully submitted that the references teach away from a combination between the Keller reference and the Southwick reference. A person with ordinary skill in the art would not combine the adjustable saw guide of Southwick with the tool of Keller. The Southwick reference is primarily concerned with the providing a "means for retaining said cap member and said saw guide to said head at various adjustable angular positions about the axis of said stub shaft and said head," as said in each of the claims and as described in the specification as "the cap member 22 may be disposed at various angles relative to the head 14 and about the axis of the stub shaft 27 by removing the screws 36 and rotating the cap member to align the openings 37 with any of the various openings 38 formed in the end of the head 14." Col. 3, lines 76-81. In contrast, the Keller reference does not include structure allowing

adjustment of its saw guide in an angular manner. Keller only describes in FIG. 3 that two "clamp members 23 join and securely fasten the housing halves together with clamping forces substantially parallel to the cutter arbor shaft axis." Col. 5, lines 47-49. Thus, the Keller reference does not allow adjustment in an angular manner. Thus, there is no motivation to alter the Keller reference and use the design of the Southwick reference which does not allow for adjustment of the saw in an angular position. The Southwick reference would be rendered inoperable for its stated purpose if it was combined with the elements of the Keller reference.

Even if a motivation to combine the two references is present, it is respectfully suggested that the Keller reference and the Southwick reference do not teach or suggest each of the elements recited in the amended claims. The amended claims recite that the "the output shaft (18) is supported by a bearing (19) and the sprocket wheel (20) is provided with a hub part (22) surrounding the bearing (19)." This limitation is not described in either the Keller reference or the Southwick reference. The Office action on page 5 states that this limitation is not found in the Keller reference. As for the Southwick reference, the Office action asserts on page 5 that Southwick discloses a pole saw (29) having a "hub part surrounding a bearing (inner sleeve portion as seen in Figure 3) for an output shaft (27)." However, the specification and the drawings do not describe the recited claim limitation. Southwick describes that the sprocket 29 is "keyed to the portion 28 of the shaft 27 as by a key 30 and secured on the end of the shaft as by a washer 31 and screw 32, the screw 32 making threaded connection with the outer end of the portion 28 of the shaft 27." It is unclear how the structure in Southwick with the key 30, the washer 31, and the screw 32 can be equivalent to the hub 22 and the mass vibration damper 23 in the subject invention.

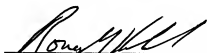
Furthermore, neither reference describes or shows a "mass body vibration damper (23) is secured to the hub part (22) and the vibration damper (23) is arranged between the gear (16) and the sprocket wheel (20) on an inner side of the sprocket wheel; and the vibration damper (23) is configured to rotate with the sprocket wheel (20) and provide additional weight for the saw head (12)." As already stated, Keller does not show this in the drawings or the specification. Southwick does not have any structure either equivalent to the vibration damper (23), let alone configured to rotate with the sprocket wheel on an inner side of the sprocket wheel. Neither Keller nor Southwick

disclose any teachings or motivations for these recited limitations nor provide any predictions for this advantageous type of structure where the weight distribution is improved with a vibration damper. Thus, for at least the reasons provided, neither Keller nor Southwick, individually or in combination, teach or suggest each and every element of the amended claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. ABE1-38821.

Respectfully submitted,
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